

Expanding the Multidisciplinary Approach to Cochlear Implant Teams

Dr. Nathan Page - Cochlear Implant Program Director
Najwa Ghattas - Cochlear Implant Program Coordinator

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify the key roles of various professionals in a multidisciplinary cochlear implant program and explain how their collaboration addresses the comprehensive needs of children with hearing loss.
- Attendees will learn to appreciate the inclusion of parents as program coordinators, understanding how their insights can enhance team dynamics, improve communication, and lead to better outcomes for children and families.
- Participants will gain practical knowledge on how to connect families and create community engagement events that foster support networks, empowering families in their cochlear implant journey.



How does this topic fit in with the goals of EHDI?

- A CI team can be a driver of improvement, as early detection and intervention is necessary for optimal CI outcomes
- A successful CI program requires interaction between healthcare providers and parents, schools, and state agencies.
- The multidisciplinary team helps families identify communication goals for their children



The Multidisciplinary Team Approach

Key Professionals Involved

- Surgeon: Performs the implantation surgery
- Audiologist: Assesses hearing and provides CI support
- Speech-Language Pathologist: Focuses on language development
- Psychologist: Supports emotional and psychological adjustment
- Coordinator: Manages communication and logistics for the team and family

Professionals As Needed

- Social Worker: Supports the family in navigating resources, financial issues, and emotional challenges
- Child-Life Specialist: Eases stress and supports children through medical procedures
- Geneticist: Investigates potential genetic causes and provides guidance on family planning
- Educators: Assists with school integration and educational strategies
- Ophthalmology: Assesses and manages vision issues
- Neurology: Evaluates and manages neurological factors
- Developmental Pediatrics: Assesses overall development

Goal: Comprehensive, individualized care for each child with hearing differences.

SURGEONS



Nathan C. Page, MD



Austin N. DeHart, MD



Punam A. Patel, MD

AUDIOLOGISTS



Deborah A. Flynn, AuD



Ashley A. Geske, AuD



Allison R. Sayer, AuD

SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS



Katy Sosna, SLP



Talisha Brownell, SLP

PSYCHOLOGIST



Tava L. Arnold, PhD

TEAM COORDINATOR



Najwa Ghattas

Program Director

- Establish a vision/mission
- Oversees the work
- Resolves conflicts
- Provides mentorship
- Advocates for the program
- Recruits team members



CI Team Coordinator

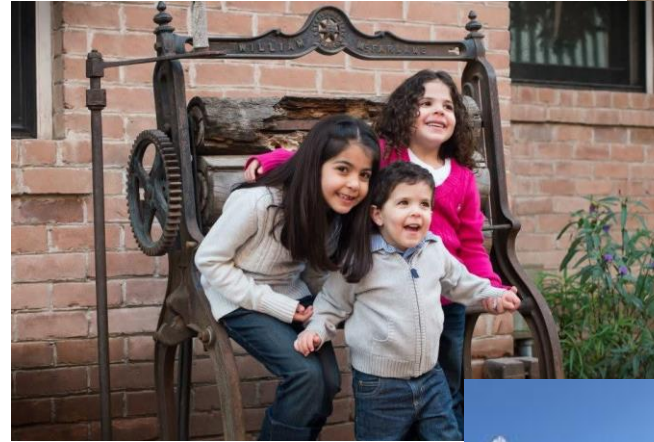
- Manages patient care
- Organizes and coordinates all aspects of the program
- Communicates with patient families
- Ensures timely execution of care
- Spearheads process improvement
- Facilitates communication and coordination among team members



Unique Model: The Role of the Parent-Coordinator

Program Coordinator

- Brings personal insight into the family's journey
- Brings family perspective into decisions and strategies
- Fosters trust and empathy within families
- Enhances communication between the professional team and families
- Supports the family journey
- Creates bridges between the healthcare team and community organizations.



Connecting Families to Resources

Resource Accessibility

- Offer guidance in exploring educational opportunities
- Provide resources on diverse communication options (oral, sign language, AAC, etc.)
- Connect to outside resources



Community Engagement & Support Networks



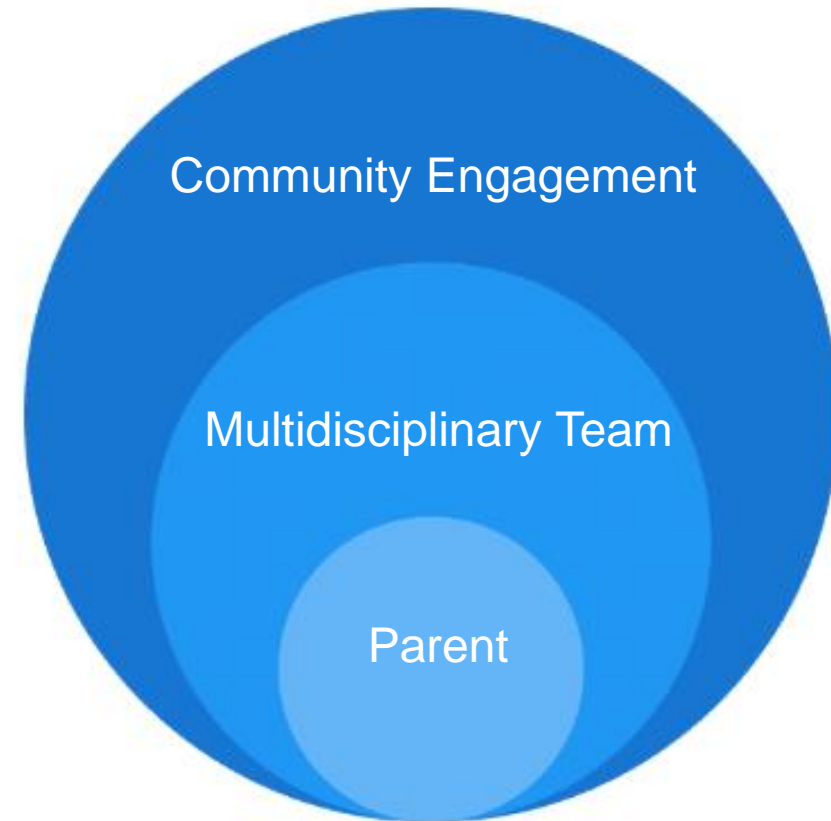
- Build a supportive community with active engagement
- Strengthen connections between families, professionals, and local networks
- Foster a sense of belonging and shared experience
- Host events including workshops, toddler groups, social events



Practical Strategies for Implementing this Model

Key Steps

- Include parents in the process - Ensure family involvement at every stage of decision-making
- Build a multidisciplinary team - create a cohesive team of diverse professionals
- Creating community engagement - Integrate community into the program



FAMILY EVENT



Conclusion

- The multidisciplinary, family-centered approach provides comprehensive support for children with a hearing difference.
- Family perspectives are central to success
- Community engagement builds stronger support systems





Thank you!

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